

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-2, 4, 6 and 14-16 have been amended. Claims 3 and 7-13 were previously cancelled. New claims 17-19 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-2, 4-6 and 14-19 are presented for examination. The following remarks are in response to the final Office Action, mailed November 25, 2005.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yue, U.S. Patent No. 5,987,492 (“Yue”).

Claim 11 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 5 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(ea) as being anticipated by Montpetit, U.S. Patent No. 6,366,761 (“Montpetit”).

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

allocating a plurality of processing slots based on respective priorities of client systems, wherein allocating includes providing a higher number of the plurality of processing slots to high priority client systems, and providing a lower number of the plurality of processing slots to low priority client systems;

assigning work units to the plurality of processing slots, the work units having object priority levels associated with them as determined by the client systems when assigning objects to the work units;

sending the work units to the client systems for processing in accordance with the allocation of the plurality of processing slots; and processing the work units in accordance with the associated object priority levels.

(emphasis provided)

Applicants respectfully submit that Montpetit discloses “[a] data communications system . . . that allocates an amount of bandwidth to a ground terminal for uplink

transmission . . . packets in a low-Earth-orbit (LEO) satellite data communications network.” (Abstract). Montpetit further discloses that “[a] *hierarchy of priority status levels is provided to assist the network in providing the four quality of service classes.* [The] four levels of priority status are defined and *denoted as P1, P2, P3 and P4.*” (col. 5, line 65 – col. 6, line 2; emphasis provided).

Montpetit does not teach or reasonably suggest “allocating includes providing a higher number of the plurality of processing slots to high priority client systems, and a lower number of the plurality of processing slots to low priority client systems . . . work units having object priority levels associated with them as determined by the client systems when assigning objects to the work units . . . sending the work units to the client systems for processing in accordance with the allocation of the plurality of processing slots . . . and processing the work units in accordance with the corresponding object priority levels” as recited by claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims.

Claim 14 includes limitations similar to those of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 14 and its dependent claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 2-4, 6, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Montpetit.

Claims 2-4, 6 and 15-16 depend from claims 1 or 14 and thus include all the limitations of the base claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-4, 6 and 15-16.

Claims 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yue.

Claims 12 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice.

New Claims

New claim 17 includes limitations similar to those of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 17 and its dependent claims are patentable over the cited references.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is hereby earnestly requested.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicant respectfully petitions for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

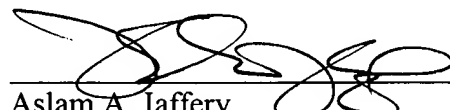
Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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